

unexplained.

The habitat of *G. hirsutum* below Pradhanpat Falls in Sambalpur district is also within the deep forest and is situated almost on the same latitude ( $\pm 21^{\circ}30'N$ ) as are the places of its distribution in south-east Asia. The place also remains humid throughout the year.

The present record of the species from Orissa is probably another evidence of its discontinuous distribution. The species starts flowering at an early age and produces healthy seeds. Probably, the species migrated to Malabar through the hilly regions of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. It has now been eliminated from the path of its migration, most probably due to the prevailing dry climate of this region except in some very isolated pockets.

However, the present report is not only a new record for Orissa but also for the entire Gangetic plains and the broad central plateau of India.

*C. hirsutum* may be confused in the field with *G. zeylanicum* which is available almost in all the tropical and subtropical regions of India and can be easily distinguished by the following key:

Lamina	tomentose	beneath;	capsule	pubescent	.....	<i>G. hirsutum</i> .
Lamina	glabrous	beneath;	capsules	glabrous	.....	<i>G. zeylanicum</i> .

Being a rare and little known plant in the Indian subcontinent, a brief description is given below to help further exploration in the adjoining regions (Fig. 1):

*Glochidion hirsutum* (Roxb.) Voigt, Hort. Suburb. Calcutta 153. 1845; Muell.-Arg. in Linnaea 32 : 61. 1863; Hook. f. in Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 5 : 311.

1887; Prain, Beng. Pl. 2 : 931. 1903; Parkinson, For. Fl. Andaman 235, 1921-22; Kanjilal *et al.* Fl. Assam 4: 184. 1940; Airy Shaw in Kew Bull. 26 : 275. 1972. *Bradleia hirsuta* Roxb., Fl. Ind. 3: 699. 1832.

Small tree up to 5 m high with watery latex; branches densely pubescent. Leaves simple, alternate; petiole  $\pm 0.3$  cm long, densely hairy; lamina broadly ovate or elliptic,  $\pm 17.0 \times 7.5$  cm, entire, acuminate, base rounded or slightly cordate, oblique, rusty-tomentose beneath, often drying purplish-brown beneath, lateral nerves  $\pm 10$  pairs. Inflorescence usually very shortly pedunculate and supra-auxiliary, few-flowered. Petals 6 in both sexes, externally hirsute, glabrous within; anthers 6 in male flowers, connective short; ovary globose, hairy; style conical. Capsule subglobose, obscurely lobed, ends slightly depressed,  $\pm 0.5$  cm across, pubescent with persistent style and perianth.

**Flowers and fruits:** September to April

**Specimen cited:** Pradhanpat, Deogarh, 23 January 1989, *Das et Panda 1350* (CAL)

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### 39. THE OCCURRENCE OF *PHALAENOPSIS CORNU-CERVI* (ORCHIDACEAE) IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

*Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* (Breda) Bl. & Reichb. f. was described by Breda under the genus *Polychilos*. However, Blume and Reichenbach (1860) recognised that it is better placed under *Phalaenopsis* Bl.

Kurz (1876) reported this species as occurring in the tropical forests of Kamorta island. Sweet (1980) gave the world distribution of this species as Sarawak, Borneo, Java, Sumatra, Thailand, Malaysia, India based on Kurz's collection from Nicobar Island and

Burma. Vasudeva Rao (1986) does not include this species in his list. Karthikeyan *et al.* (1989) gave the distribution of this species in India as eastern Himalaya and north-east India.

The plant has not been collected again in Andaman and Nicobar islands since its report by Kurz in 1876 from Nicobar island. It is to be noted that Nicobar group of islands have more species common with Indonesia in the south and Malaysia in the east.

Recently this species has been collected from Entrance Island (North Andamans) thus extending its distribution in Andaman islands; many species are common to north-east India, Burma and Thailand.

*Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* can be easily recognised by the inflorescence with its terete, basally tapering peduncle and its laterally compressed, flexuous, complanate-alate rachis. A short account of the species is presented here for easy identification.

*Phalaenopsis cornu-cervi* (Breda) Bl. & Reichb. f. in Hamb. Gartenz. 16: 116. 1860; Kurz in J. As. Soc. Beng. 45(3): 156. 1876; Hook. f., Fl. Brit. India 6: 29. 1890; C.E. Fischer in Rec. Bot. Surv. India 12: 141. 1938; Sweet in Amer. Orch. Soc. Bull. 38: 512. 1969 & Genus *Phalaenopsis* 55. 1980; Karthik. et al., Fl. Ind. Enum. Monocot. 163. 1989. *Polychilos cornu-cervi* Breda in Kuhl & Van Hasselt, Gen. & Sp. Orchid. t. 1.

Epiphytic; roots profusely produced from rhizome-like stem, fleshy, flexuous, glabrous; stem short, completely enclosed by imbricating leaf-sheaths. Leaves 2-4, 9-20 x 3.0-5.5 cm, fleshy, oblong-ligulate to oblong-oblancheolate, obtuse. Inflorescences 1- 2,

11.0-27.5 cm long; peduncle terete with 1 or 2 small cauline sheaths; rachis simple, laterally compressed, commonly many-flowered; bracts alternate, distichous, ovate-cucullate. Fruits c. 4.0 x 0.4 cm, linear, fruiting pedicel c. 0.5 cm long.

**Illustration:** J.J. Sm., Orch. Java. Fig. - Atlas pt. 5, fig. 415. 1912; Seidenfaden & Smitinand, Orch. Thailand 4: fig. 403. 1963 & Orch. Digest 36: 168. 1972; Katoh & Futakuchi, Orchids in Colour pl. 114, fig. 4. 1974.

**Specimen examined:** INDIA : North Andamans, Entrance Island, 8 November 1990, P. Lakshminarasimhan and L.N. Ray 15199 (PBL).

**Ecology:** Rare in the tropical inland forests.

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#### 40. INFESTATION OF *PARROTIOPSIS JACQUEMONTIANA* BY *LEUCOMA SERICEA* (LYMANTRIIDAE) IN DACHIGAM NATIONAL PARK, KASHMIR

During a four month stay in Kashmir in 1989, caterpillars of *Leucoma sericea* (Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae) were observed infesting *Parrotiopsis jacquemontiana*. This is a perennial plant occurring on the slopes of Dachigam National Park and areas around it.

Inside the park boundary this plant is more abundant on the south and south-west facing slopes, besides covering a large chunk of the main Dachigam nalla.

The caterpillar is greyish yellow and the moth is white in colour; the latter was identified in the

entomology section of Aligarh Muslim University. The caterpillar is a voracious feeder on leaves and the infestation reaches its peak in July, when most of the infested slopes look brown as almost all leaves are eaten up.

This plant is of vital importance for the conservation and management of the park. It provides excellent cover for the rare hangul *Cervus hanglu* and to various other fauna of the National Park.

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